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IN THE UNITED STATES PATENT AND TRADEMARK OFFICE

Applicant: Anthony Robert Wicks
Serial No: 10/656,614
Confirmation No.: 7995
Filed: September 5, 2003
For: DATA MANAGEMENT TOOL
Examiner: --
Art Unit: 3629

CERTIFICATE OF MAILING UNDER 37 C.F.R. §1.8(a)

The undersigned hereby certifies that this document is being placed in the United States mail with first-class postage attached, addressed to Commissioner for Patents, P.O. Box 1450, Alexandria, VA 22313-1450, on the 28th day of April, 2004.


Steven J. Henry
Reg. No. 27,900

Commissioner for Patents
P.O. Box 1450
Alexandria, VA 22313-1450

Sir:
Transmitted herewith are the following documents:

- ☒ Information Disclosure Statement, PTO-1449 and references
- ☒ Priority document
- ☒ Return Receipt Postcard


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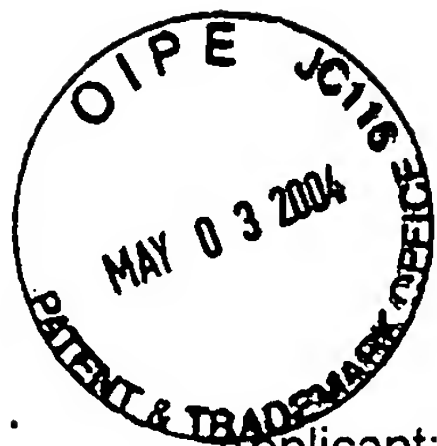
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Respectfully submitted,

Docket No.: M0274.70033 US00
Date: April 28, 2004

xndd


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Boston, MA 02210-2211
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INVESTOR IN PEOPLE

The Patent Office
Concept House
Cardiff Road
Newport
South Wales
NP10 8QQ

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I also certify that the attached copy of the request for grant of a Patent (Form 1/77) bears an amendment, effected by this office, following a request by the applicant and agreed to by the Comptroller-General.

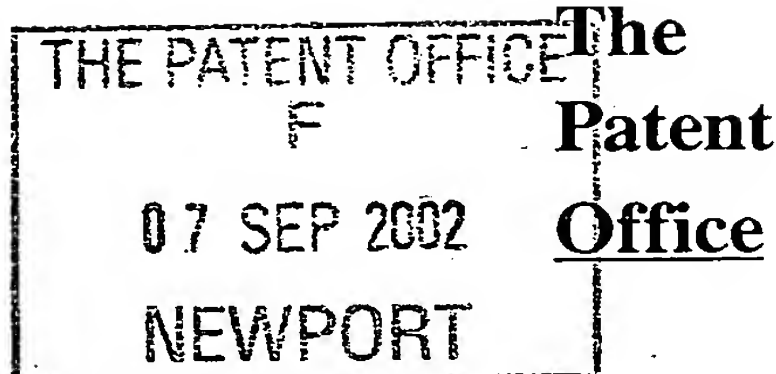
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Dated 12 September 2003



1/77
10SEP02 E74 707-4 D01667
P01/7700 0.00-0220861.9

Patents Act 1977
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Request for grant of a patent

(See the notes on the back of this form. You can also get
an explanatory leaflet from the Patent Office to help you
fill in this form)

The Patent Office

Cardiff Road
Newport
Gwent NP9 1RH

1. Your reference

WICKS/101

IK/CEC/258806B

2. P
(M)

0220861.9

- 7 SEP 2002

3. Full name, address and postcode of the or of
each applicant (*underline all surnames*)

Anthony Robert WICKS
15 Van Gogh Court
Amsterdam Road
London E14 3UY

Patents ADP number (*if you know it*)

If the applicant is a corporate body, give the
country/state of its incorporation

8460891001

4. Title of the invention

PRESENTATION OF INFORMATION

5. Name of your agent (*if you have one*)

Ephry Eder

Address for service in the United Kingdom
to which all correspondence should be sent
(*including the postcode*)

E. EDER & CO
39 Cranbrook Road
Ilford
Essex IG1 4PA

Mathys + Squire
100 Gray's Inn Road
London
WC1X 8AL

Patents ADP number (*if you know it*)

8631001

1081001

5/1/77
5/19/03

6. If you are declaring priority from one or more
earlier patent applications, give the country
and the date of filing of the or of each of these
earlier applications and (*if you know it*) the or
each application number

Country

Priority Appln. No.
(*if you know it*)

Date of filing
(*day/month/year*)

7. If this application is divided or otherwise
derived from an earlier UK application,
give the number and the filing date of
the earlier application

Number of earlier application

Date of filing
(*day/month/year*)

8. Is a statement of inventorship and of right
to grant a patent required in support of
this request? (*Answer "Yes" if:*

- a) any applicant named in part 3 is not an inventor, or
- b) there is an inventor who is not named as an applicant, or
- c) any named applicant is a corporate body See note (d)

9. Enter the number of sheets for any of the following items you are filing with this form. Do not count copies of the same document.

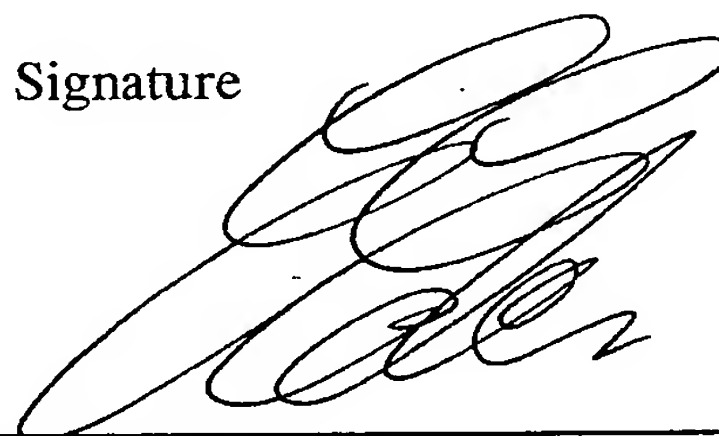
- Continuation sheets of this form
- Description 4
- Claim(s) 2
- Abstract
- Drawing(s) 4 + 4 8w

10. If you are filing any of the following state how many of each item.

- Priority documents:
- Translation of priority documents:
- Statement of inventorship and right to grant of a patent (Patents Form 7/77):
- Request for preliminary examination and search (Patents Form 9/77): 1
- Request for substantive examination (Patents Form 10/77):
- Any other documents (please specify): 1 (Letter)

11. I/We request the grant of a patent on the basis of this application

Signature



Date

5 September 2002

12. Name and daytime telephone number of person to contact in the United Kingdom

Ephry Eder

020-8478 7887

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PRESENTATION OF INFORMATION

5

DESCRIPTION

Technical Field

10 This invention relates to the presentation of information. It is concerned with methods of presenting information correlating a list of items and a list of their attributes. It is also concerned with display means for displaying such information. The invention has application when a PC user needs to select an item having a particular attribute (or the lack of such attribute) from a list. Generally, lists are presented to the user in a box which can be scrolled up and down, so that the user can select the one he wants. The
15 larger the list, the more difficult and time-consuming is the job of selecting.

Background

20 There are various ways by which current computer software can reduce the size of lists and thus simplify the task of selection. Four of these known methods are: option buttons, search boxes, organisation into a hierarchy, or a spreadsheet format. Each of these has disadvantages. Option buttons are limited to whatever attributes are predefined by the software. Search boxes normally only accept words which have to exist in the text of items. Hierarchical methods don't work very well on lists where list items have attributes which don't fall into a hierarchical structure (for example the
25 various attributes of fonts). Spreadsheets can only filter lists according to the value of data fields within each item. It is not possible to create an attribute which is independent from the data in the list, and allocate the attribute to items in the list for use in filtering.

30

Disclosure of the Invention

According to the invention a method of presenting information correlating a list of items and a list of their attributes comprises:

- a) displaying the list of items as a column of rows, each row displaying the name of an item in the list of items,
- b) displaying to the side of the column a set of vertical strips extending the length of the column, each strip being associated with a different attribute of the list of attributes, and
- c) displaying markers in the strips at selected positions where the strips cross rows, said positions being selected in accordance with whether the item named in the crossed row has (or alternatively has not) the attribute associated with that strip.

Each strip of the set of strips may be displayed in a distinctive colour, for example the colours of the rainbow.

In carrying out the invention the strips may extend beyond the column of rows of items and have horizontal extensions themselves forming a column of rows, each row displaying the name of an attribute in the list of attributes.

In preferred embodiments of the invention said set of strips extends along one side of the column of rows displaying the names of the list of items and a second set of strips each strip of which is associated with a different attribute of a further list of attributes extends along the other side of the said column of rows. The strips of said second set of strips extend beyond the column of rows of items and have horizontal extensions themselves forming a second column of rows, each row displaying the name of an attribute in the further list of attributes.

A plurality of alternative sets of strips may be made available and selection means is then displayed for selecting any one set of said alternative sets for display.

The invention also comprises display means for carrying out the method described above.

Brief Description of the Drawings

5 By way of example one embodiment of this invention will now be described with reference to the accompanying drawings of which:

Fig. 1 shows the top half of a display embodying the invention and showing two sets of strips for listing attributes and provision for a column of rows for listing items,

10 Fig. 2 shows the top left-hand corner of a display embodying the invention and displaying a typical marker,

Fig. 3 shows the top right-hand corner of a display embodying the invention, and

Fig. 4 shows a display similar to that of Fig. 1 but adapted to provide for more than two sets of strips.

15 Detailed Description of Example(s) of the Invention

Fig. 1 shows the five main areas of a display embodying the invention, the respective areas being referenced 1, 2, 3, 4 and 5. Areas 1, 2, 3 and 4 are each made up of seven strips in the colours of the rainbow. Areas 1 and 2 comprise two sets of seven strips arranged horizontally across the top of the display. Area 1 on the left is used to display those attributes pre-allocated by a computer program. Area 2 on the right is used to display any attributes created by the user. The third and fourth sets of colour strips 3 and 4 are arranged beneath the horizontal sets to form a rectangular approximation to a rainbow. These sets of vertical strips 3 and 4 are used to display markers against each item in a list of items where an attribute is present, as well as to accept mouse clicks from the user to toggle attributes on and off. The fifth area 5 is placed inside the approximate rainbow formed by areas 1 to 4. Area 5 contains a column of rows in which the names of a list of items are placed. In the example considered the items comprise fonts and their names are displayed row by row.

The names 10 of the attributes of fonts are displayed on the horizontal colour strips in the top of the display, e.g. in the right part of display area 1 and/or in the left part of display area 2 (Fig. 1). Alongside each attribute name is an option box 11 inside which the user can click to filter the list of items having that attribute, either negatively or positively. For example a left mouse click would select only font names possessing the attribute, and a right mouse click would select only font names not possessing the attribute. Option box 11 displays any current selection status 14, for example a tick for positive selection or a cross for negative selection. In order to toggle an attribute on or off the user clicks in the rectangle 13 formed by the intersection of the appropriate vertical colour strip and the horizontal item display.

To create a new attribute, a user clicks inside a horizontal colour strip 20 shown in Fig. 3 which is currently empty. The program then prompts the user for the attribute name, and displays it alongside an option box. Such an option box would be similar to the option boxes 11 shown in Fig.2.

If more than seven attributes are required to be shown on each side of the screen, further sets of seven attributes can be set up which are displayed on request by the user, for example clicking on numbered navigation buttons 30. The rainbow strips relating to each set can be overlaid with a large number 31 for identification.

Other modifications and embodiments of the invention, which will be readily apparent to those skilled in this art, are to be deemed within the ambit and scope of the invention, and the particular embodiment(s) hereinbefore described may be varied in construction and detail, e.g. interchanging (where appropriate or desired) different features of each, without departing from the scope of the patent monopoly hereby sought.

CLAIMS

1. A method of presenting information correlating a list of items and a list of their attributes comprising:

5 a) displaying the list of items as a column of rows, each row displaying the name of an item in the list of items,

b) displaying to the side of the column a set of vertical strips extending the length of the column, each strip being associated with a different attribute of the list of attributes, and

10 c) displaying markers in the strips at selected positions where the strips cross rows, said positions being selected in accordance with whether the item named in the crossed row has (or alternatively has not) the attribute associated with that strip.

15 2. The method as claimed in claim 1 in which each strip of the set of strips is displayed in a distinctive colour.

3. The method as claimed in either one of the preceding claims in which the strips extend beyond the column of rows of items and have horizontal extensions themselves forming a column of rows, each row displaying the name of an attribute
20 in the list of attributes.

4. The method as claimed in any one of the preceding claims in which said set of strips extends along one side of the column of rows displaying the names of the list of items and a second set of strips each strip of which is associated with a different
25 attribute of a further list of attributes extends along the other side of the said column of rows.

5. The method as claimed in claim 3 and claim 4 in which the strips of said second set of strips extend beyond the column of rows of items and have horizontal

extensions themselves forming a second column of rows, each row displaying the name of an attribute in the further list of attributes.

5 6. The method as claimed in any one of the preceding claims in which a plurality of alternative sets of strips are made available and selection means is displayed for selecting any one set of said alternative sets for display.

7. Display means for carrying out the method as claimed in any one of the preceding claims.

10

Fig 1

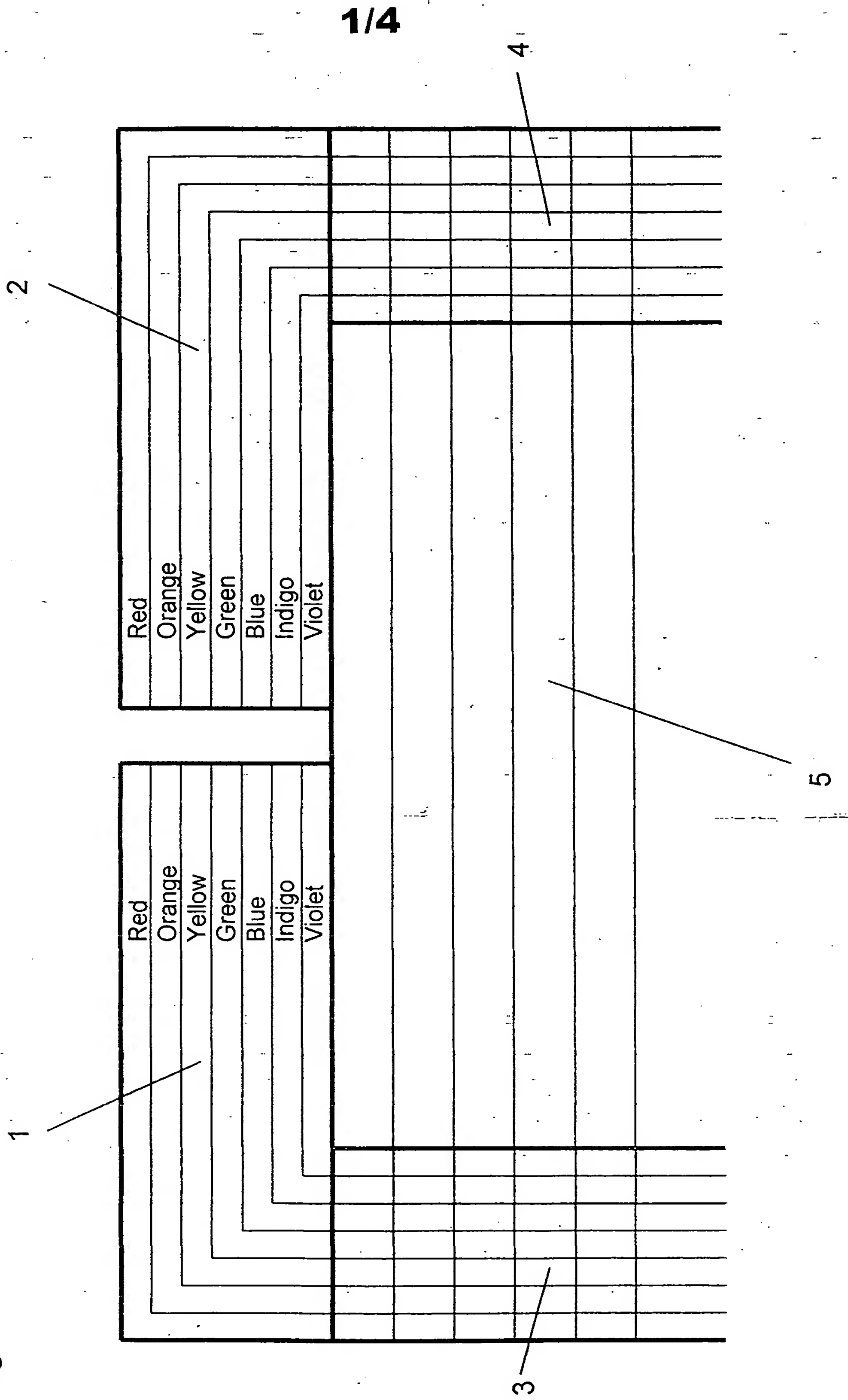


Fig 2

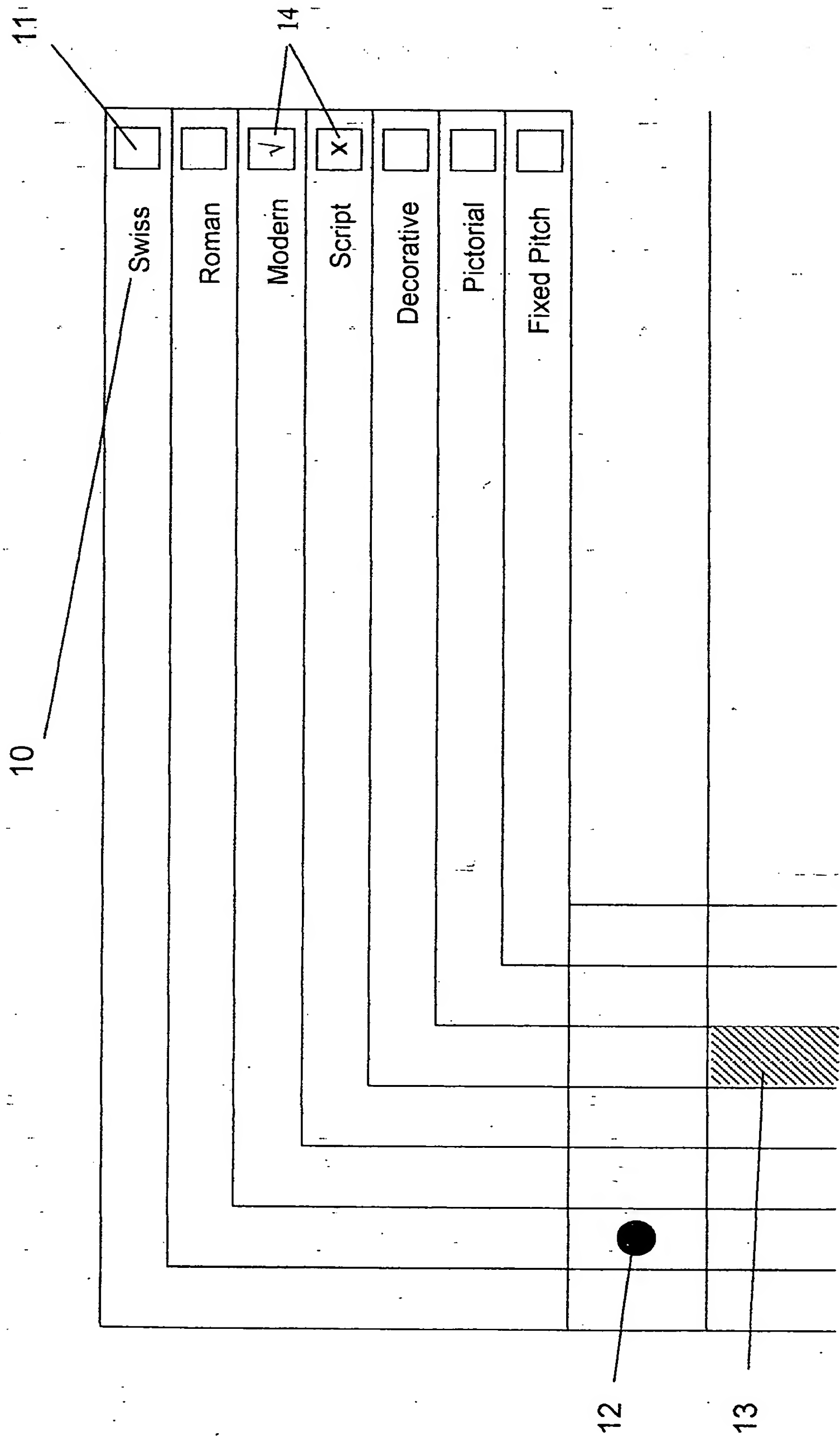
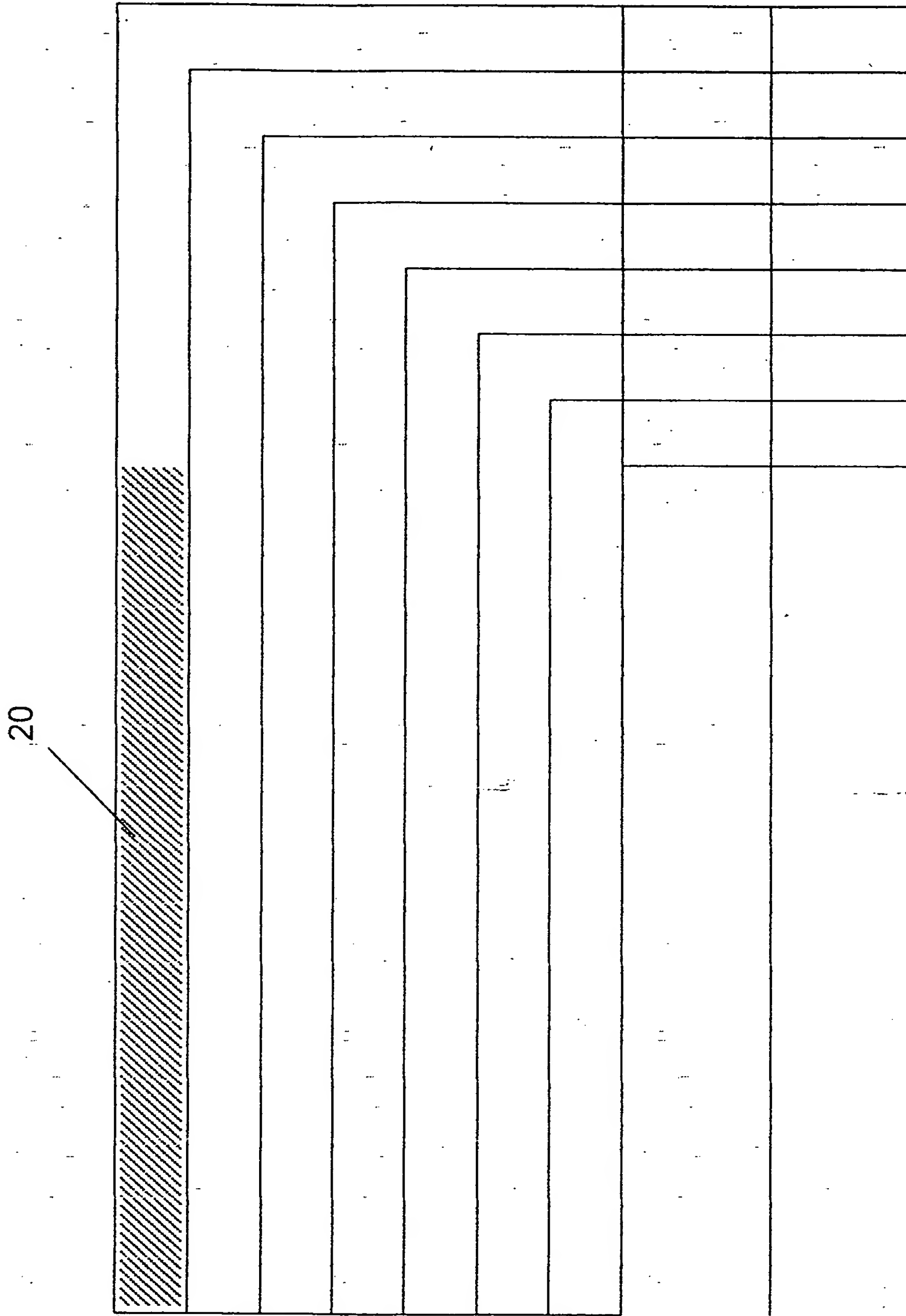


Fig 3



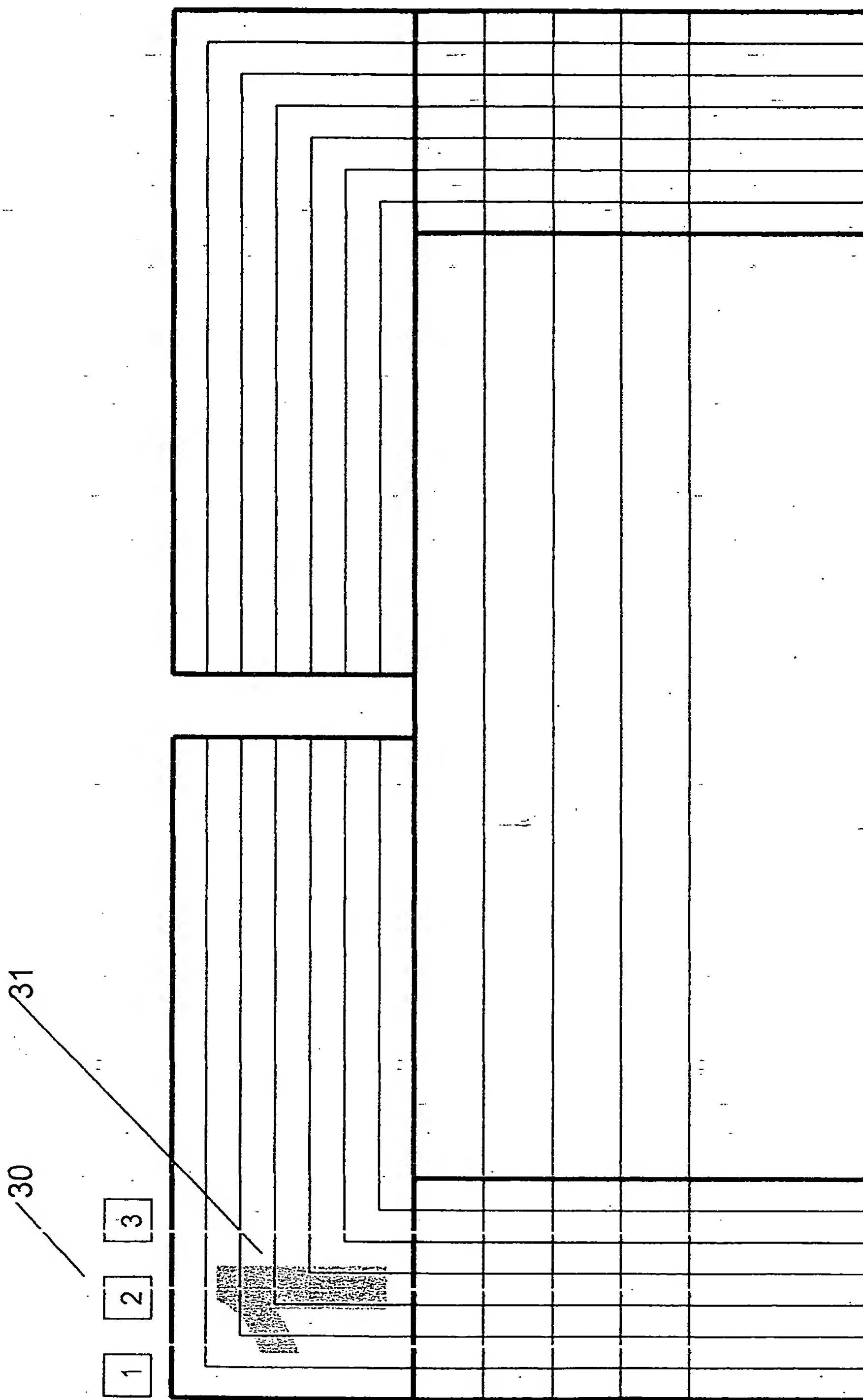


Fig 4